

## WHY YOUTH JOIN GANGS

There are different reasons for each individual

- The parties, girls, drugs and money lure some.
- Some are looking for power, respect and status.
- The gang becomes a family; they feel cared for and noticed, things they may feel they're not getting at home or in the community.
- Some join for protection.
- Some live in a neighborhood where gangs run the streets and it's the "norm".
- Most have some real or imagined problems at home that make them prefer the streets.
- Some may have been born into the gang.
- Other reasons can include; companionship, peer pressure, intimidation, having a violent home life, no supervision or community ties.

## GANGS = VIOLENCE

- Youth who engage in illegal activity often carry weapons for protection.
- Gangs use violence in retaliation for real or perceived disrespect.
- Retaliation can target **ANY** member of the gang... not just the one who disrespected the other gang.
- Once a war exists between two gangs, violence may be continual.
- Once an individual is recognized as a gang member (even if that individual gets out) that person is in serious danger of being hurt. If a member is beat out, or let out of their gang, their gang knows... but how do they let all of the other gangs know? This is the problem; kids don't think far enough into the future to understand the consequences of joining a gang.

Visit our web site at: [www.co.suffolk.ny.us/probation](http://www.co.suffolk.ny.us/probation)

Hot line: 631-852-5070

E-mail: [ganginfo@co.suffolk.ny.us](mailto:ganginfo@co.suffolk.ny.us)